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Sustainable development: implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

Bolivia (Plurinational State of):* draft resolution

Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 68/213 of 20 December 2013, as well as other resolutions relating to the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[1]

Recalling also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[2] in which the Conference, inter alia, recognized the economic and social significance of good land management, including soil, particularly its contribution to economic growth, biodiversity, sustainable agriculture and food security, eradicating poverty, women's empowerment, addressing climate change and improving water availability, stressed that desertification, land degradation and drought are challenges of a global dimension that continue to pose serious challenges to the sustainable development of all countries, in particular developing countries, stressed also the particular challenges this poses for Africa, the least developed countries and the landlocked developing countries, expressed deep concern at the devastating consequences of cyclical drought and famine in Africa, in particular in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel region, and called for urgent action through short-, medium- and long-term measures at all levels,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

[2] Resolution 66/288, annex.

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Recalling further that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development recognized the need for urgent action to reverse land degradation and, in view of this, for striving to achieve a land-degradation-neutral world in the context of sustainable development, which should act to catalyse financial resources from a range of public and private sources,

Noting that sustainable land use and striving to achieve a land-degradation-neutral world in drylands would contribute to easing forced migration flows and reducing fighting over land and water resources in the degraded areas,

Concerned by the devastating consequences of extreme weather phenomena in arid, semi-arid and dry subhumid regions, characterized by recurrent and long spells of drought, flooding and increasing frequency and severity of dust-storms and sandstorms, and their negative impact on the environment and the economy,

Emphasizing the need to promote sustainable land management, sustainable forest management and the restoration of degraded lands in order to combat desertification, land degradation and drought,

Noting that avoiding additional land degradation, especially in arid, semi-arid and dry subhumid areas, while restoring degraded land, is crucial in order for the rural poor to achieve food security and access to energy and water,

Noting also the need for enhanced coordination and cooperation at all levels among the parties to and the secretariats of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[3] and the Convention on Biological Diversity,[4] while respecting their individual mandates,

Further noting that desertification, land degradation, drought and climate change are intertwined, with each fuelling the other, in a cycle that is impeding global efforts to promote sustainable development,

Expressing concern about the fact that currently, 2 billion hectares of land have been lost to degradation and desertification, with many regions experiencing more frequent, prolonged periods of drought or flooding, leading to the loss of fertile top-soil through erosion, and that as land becomes degraded, it loses the capacity to support livelihoods, forcing communities to invade forests and wetlands in search of fertile land,

Noting that the lost land, if recovered, would, inter alia, contribute to improving food security and nutrition in the affected countries and in the process could contribute to, inter alia, the absorption of carbon emissions,

Underlining the cross-sectoral nature of desertification, land degradation and drought mitigation, including their economic, social and environmental dimensions, and in this regard inviting all relevant United Nations organizations to cooperate with the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, within their respective mandates, in supporting an effective response to those challenges,

Welcoming the offer of the Government of Turkey to host the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in 2015,

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[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[4] Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;[5]

2. *Calls upon* Member States to take urgent action to reverse desertification, land degradation and drought, as appropriate, with the assistance of the United Nations system, relevant regional and international organizations, multilateral agencies, major groups and other stakeholders;

3. *Reaffirms its resolve*, in accordance with the Convention, to take coordinated action, nationally, regionally and internationally, to globally monitor land degradation and restore degraded lands;

4. *Recalls* its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and decided that the report of the Open Working Group shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, and to give appropriate attention to the issues of desertification, land degradation and drought in the negotiation of the post-2015 development agenda;

5. *Encourages* the coordination and collaboration of all stakeholders in enhancing the resilience and harnessing the potential of the affected countries;

6. *Stresses* the importance of the further development and implementation of scientifically based, sound and socially inclusive methods and indicators for monitoring and assessing the extent of desertification, land degradation and drought, as well as the importance of efforts under way to promote scientific research in accordance with the Convention, and in this respect invites the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,[1] the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[3] and the Convention on Biological Diversity,[4] within their respective mandates, to collaborate on their activities whenever they are related to desertification, drought and land degradation;

7. *Reiterates* the need for cooperation through the sharing of climate and weather information, forecasting and early warning systems related to desertification, land degradation and drought, as well as to dust-storms and sandstorms, at the global, regional and subregional levels, and in this regard invites States and relevant organizations to cooperate in the sharing of related information, forecasting and early warning systems;

8. *Decides* to include in the United Nations calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2015-2016 the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and its subsidiary bodies;

9. *Also decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa";

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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[5] A/69/317, sect. II.